

THE GRANNYTOWN GAZETTE

The Newsletter of the Alden Historical Society, Alden NY 14004

Published Quarterly

aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Alden Historical Society, founded in 1965, is a volunteer-supported organization whose mission is to preserve, promote and present the history of the Town of Alden and its people.

"Oh, My Aching Tooth!"

The selection of Alden Family Dentistry as the Alden Chamber of Commerce's 2014 "Business of the Year" prompted some research into dentists who have served Alden. Information was difficult to find as many of the early dentists were not residents of the town or village and came to Alden only once or twice a week, or month. There were no newspaper ads to check until the *Oddaographic* in 1876.

The dentist advertising in the April 15, 1876, issue of the *Oddaographic* was Dr. Merritt H. Dailey of Akron. He met his patients in the Martin House, a hotel near the Erie Railroad station on Depot (now Exchange) Street on the last Thursday of the month. Dr. Dailey was born in Canada on June 15, 1848. The family moved to Elba and then to Oakfield, New York. At the age of 19, Merritt entered a clerkship in the store of John Wainwright, a prominent merchant in Akron, NY. After two years he opened a jewelry store on Main Street, but then decided to enter the dental profession, and studied with Dr. A.H. Fowler, a well-known dentist in Batavia. After completing his studies and passing the examinations, he returned to Akron to set up his practice. In addition to his well-equipped office in Akron, he also maintained an office in Buffalo on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

In 1868, Dr. Dailey married Anna E. Wainwright, daughter of his former boss, and eleven years his senior. In the 1905 New York census, he has a new wife, Ella Persons, who had been living in Bennington, NY in 1900. The 1910 federal census finds the couple living in San Jose, California with two adopted children, Gladys, age 12, and Merritt, age 3. Later, the elder Merritt listed his occupation as orange grower. Dr. Dailey died in 1936, and is buried in California.

Georgia Tyler, wife of Dr. Clarence Tyler, wrote of a Dr. McElroy using her husband's office at what is now 13140 Main Street every Wednesday afternoon for his dental practice in the early 1900s. Wilman W. McElroy was born December 25, 1880, in Milwaukee.

The family moved to Buffalo and Wilman graduated from UB's Department of Dentistry in 1903. He, too, had an office in Buffalo, first on Genesee Street, and later at 1130 Main Street, corner of Sycamore. He lived to the age of 98.

Dr. Thomas J. Dorland practiced in the early 1910s, having office hours every Tuesday in the Thomas Block, the building on the southwest corner of Broadway and Exchange Street, on the second floor, over Art Thomas's store. He was from Akron, but had been born in Canada in 1872, coming to the United States in 1891. An article in the January 1921 *Advertiser* stated that Dr. Dorland was retiring after suffering a stroke.



Born in Tonawanda in 1878, Dr. Christian A. Landel, graduated from UB's School of Dentistry in 1898. He practiced in Alden from 1916 to 1928. A 1924 ad gives his hours as 9-12 and 1-6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays in his office in the Yager Block—now 13195-97 Broadway. He, too, had an office in Buffalo, at 603 Genesee Street. In 1901, Dr. Landel married Katherine Ganz, who died in childbirth in 1908, leaving him with three small children. He married Theresa Schroan, and they had a son, Albert, in 1910. Theresa died in 1916 at the age of 30. The 1925 New York census finds the doctor and his third wife living on Broadway in Alden. His office was then over Stowell's Drug Store. Dr. Landel died on February 18, 1956.

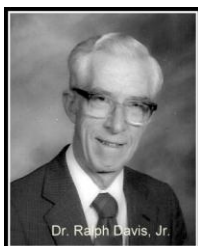
continued on page 2

Taking over Dr. Landel's office above Stowell's Drug Store in 1928 was Dr. Ralph J. Davis, Sr. He was born in Buffalo on February 22, 1897, and was also a graduate of UB's School of Dentistry. In 1923, he married Christine Fleming. Their first son, Ralph J. Davis, Jr., was born in 1925. The young family, including a new son, Dwight, moved to Alden, first living on Broadway, then in the home they built on Westcott Avenue. Christine died in 1935, and two years later, Ralph Sr. married family friend Viola Eichelberger. Dr. Davis practiced until his last illness, from which he died August 31, 1968.



Dr. Ralph Davis, Sr.
1939s

In 1951, Dr. Ralph Davis, Jr. joined his father's practice and continued until his retirement in 1986. Memories flowed on the Memories of Alden Facebook page when readers were asked about doctors and dentists—memories of the long flight of creaky stairs up to



Dr. Ralph Davis, Jr.

the Davis's dental office, the plaster animals Dr. Davis gave to his young patients, and being a firefighter in the dental chair when the siren went off—the patient off to the fire hall, the dentist off to direct traffic! A third generation Dr. Davis is practicing dentistry in Maryland, Ralph and Ruth's oldest son, Richard.



Dr. Richard Davis

As a side bar, it is interesting to note that each of the three generations of the Davises graduated from dental school on the exact same day of the year, June 13. Dr. Davis, Sr. graduated in 1923 and Dr. Davis, Jr. in 1951, both from the University of Buffalo; Dr. Richard Davis is a 1981 Ohio State University grad.

Dr. Allan Payne came to Alden in 1962. His office was on the corner of Crittenden and Park Street. The "Brace Brigade" remembers walking from school to his office on Fridays, when the orthodontist was there. Dr. Payne died June 24, 2011, at the age of 81.

Dr. Paul Zappia opened his office at 13197 Broadway in 1969. That building is the one that once housed the offices of Dr. Dorland and Dr. Landel on the upper floor. Dr. Zappia is still practicing there.



Dr. Paul Zappia

Dr. Frank Soltiz has been providing a wide range of dental services to the Alden area since 1982. His son Joseph has joined him in the practice now known as Alden Family Dentistry, located at 13367 Broadway, corner of Westcott Avenue.

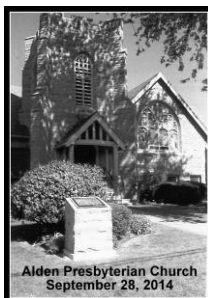


There may have been other dentists in Alden whose names we have yet to discover. We do know that many of the early doctors also served as dentists when the only "cure" was to yank out the affected tooth. Since that time new procedures have been developed to save the teeth.

Karen Muchow, Archivist

Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due

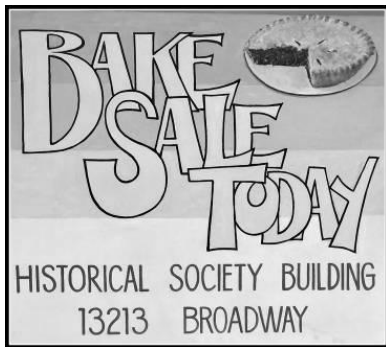
In our coverage of the Alden Historical Society's dedication of the historical marker to the Alden Presbyterian Church honoring their 200+ years of service to the community, we neglected to mention the individual whose creative design led to the building of the stone structure to which the marker is affixed. The individual who designed the structure which so beautifully complements the aesthetics of the church building is Bonnie Hy.



Alden Presbyterian Church
September 28, 2014

Bonnie drafted and submitted several designs to the church Session, sought approval from the village building inspector, and worked with the masons to ensure proper dimensions. Thank you, Bonnie, for a design that not only serves as a pedestal for the marker, but which also highlights one of Alden's most distinguished buildings.

5th Annual Bake Sale 2015 Big Success!



Our 5th annual bake sale, held in conjunction with Alden's Christmas in the Park was once again a huge success. The day's events, co-sponsored by the Alden Chamber of Commerce and Town of Alden's Department of Parks and Recreation, include a variety of activities including a marketplace, carriage rides, kids' crafts and games, caroling, a living nativity, tree lighting ceremony, and special discounts and free offerings of food and beverages by local merchants and organizations.

The Society wishes to thank all those who patronized our sale and especially those who baked or made donations to support our cause. The bake sale is our main fund-raiser; its proceeds help to fund our operations. A special thank you is extended to Society members Joe Anzalone and Kyle Kavanagh for their willingness to escort interested visitors on tours through the building. We have had many first-time visitors to the building on these bake sale days.



Alden Historical Society to Celebrate 50 Years in 2015



The Alden Historical Society will be celebrating its 50 year anniversary in 2015. Originating in 1965, we are looking for ideas from our membership or from the general public to help us make this

a memorable event. Please forward any ideas to our email address aldenhistsoc@gmail.com , or by leaving a phone message at (716) 937-3700, or by dropping us a line at Alden Historical Society, 13213 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004.

REMINDERS



Annual dues are due by April 1st.
Refer to page 7.



While life members are exempt from paying annual dues, we welcome any donations they may wish to make. Such donations will be added to our historical marker fund.



The Historical Society building will be closed for the months of **January** and **February**.

Historical Society 2014 Annual Meeting



Following a delicious pot luck supper enjoyed by Historical Society members and guests, Vice President Roberta Vincent called the November 13 annual meeting to order. She began by recognizing the veterans present: Dr. Ralph Davis, Skip Jablonski, Larry Kocher, and Erwin Lauffer and asking one of them, Dr. Ralph Davis, to lead the pledge to the flag.



She then invited guest presenter Erwin Lauffer to lead the group in a Veteran's Day observation. Against the musical background of Johnny Cash's song "Ragged Old Flag," Mr. Lauffer recited the poignant lyrics to the song wherein the tattered, battle-worn flag

symbolizes the patriotism and sacrifice demonstrated by America's combat forces during the many conflicts in which the United States has engaged throughout its history.

Vice President Vincent then began the business portion of the meeting. The five nominees for trustee vacancies on the board were identified and approved. They included incumbents Conrad Borucki, Clarke Burke, Gil Dussault, Larry Kocher, and newcomer to the board, Jennifer Strong.

Next on the agenda was the reading of annual reports. The President's report summarized the year's events and included words of appreciation for retiring Trustee Fred Blowers for his many years of dedicated service and for Archivist Karen Muchow for her many contributions to the newsletter and to various Society initiatives. He also thanked the Board of Trustees for their time and service, the Town of Alden for their continuing support, and the historical society membership for their support.

The remaining reports were shared and accepted, and V. P. Vincent began drawing the meeting to a close by reminding those in attendance of the upcoming bake sale on Dec. 6, during the Alden Chamber of Commerce's "Christmas in the Park."

V.P. Vincent concluded the meeting by mentioning that 2015 is the Alden Historical Society's golden anniversary year. Interested individuals are encouraged to contribute their ideas, time, and effort toward making this a special anniversary year.

Elli DeFilippo, Editor

Notes from the Past President



My decision to not accept another nomination for President in 2015 was very difficult. Sadly, my physical condition continues to worsen and I will need a lot of medical attention and therapy. Increasingly I have found that I am unable to give the job the time and attention it needs. During my four years as your society president I have worked diligently to not only improve our visibility and presence in the community, but to improve our operation.

I have tried to give us vision and keep us moving in the right direction. I am pleased that we have had such a positive impact. Our accomplishments are many, and I am proud of what we have achieved.

The current Board of Trustees is made up of a diverse, unselfish group of individuals who give much of themselves to help us succeed. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with them the last few years. They are the best. There is much good yet to come. Please continue to give them your generous support.

Thank you and God Bless.

Gilbert Dussault Jr., Past President

Notes from the New President



The Alden Historical Society is anticipating an exciting 2015 especially since we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in April. I'm sure as we look into the history we will find many WOW moments to share. Be sure to check the Grannytown Gazette, Alden Advertiser and/or Facebook

page for announcements of "special events" to commemorate our anniversary. We have interesting programs for each month, so plan on coming and being part of the fun. As the new president, I want to encourage you to become an active member of this very special organization dedicated to keeping the history of Alden alive and relevant to what we are doing today. We look forward to your support in making this a great year.

Roberta Vincent., President

An Entire Society Gives Thanks

The Board of Trustees is confident we speak for the full membership in expressing our deep gratitude & respect for the years of dedicated, driven leadership Gil Dussault has provided as president. Gil's vision of an active historical society responsible to all the residents

of Alden has been the impetus behind years of achievement. We thank Gil for all that has been accomplished under his leadership, assure him of our support in his struggle for good health, and appreciate his willingness to continue as a trustee.

Society Elects New Officers

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
TREASURER
SECRETARY
ARCHIVIST

The Board of Trustees of the Alden Historical Society met at the regularly scheduled meeting on December 4th and elected officers for 2015. Serving one-year terms until December 2015 will be Society President, Roberta Vincent; Vice President, Christopher Gust; Treasurer, Clarke Burke; and Secretary, Diane Casell. Karen Muchow was reappointed as Archivist. The Curator position will remain vacant until a qualified candidate is found. The new officers look to continue the direction established by former President Gil Dussault and hope to serve as good stewards between the Historical Society and Alden community as the Society celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2015.

Society Welcomes Newest Trustee

At the Alden Historical Society's 2014 Annual Meeting and potluck dinner on November 13th, five trustees were elected to serve three year terms. Returning to the Board are Conrad Borucki, Clarke Burke, Gil Dussault and Larry Kocher. Elected to her first term as trustee is Jennifer Strong. Jennifer was born and raised in Alden and continues to reside in



Town. She is partner at Neill & Strong Attorneys, located in Main Street in the Village (in a renovated Century Home). She is a long-time director on the Alden Chamber of Commerce and looks forward to enhancing her interest in local and Western New York history by serving as a trustee in the Society. Welcome, Jennifer.

We're At A Loss

They say no one is irreplaceable, and we're willing to believe that's so. Evidence to the contrary, however, exists. Presented, for your consideration, Fred Blowers: after years of quietly, reliably doing whatever needed to be done to keep the Society building and



grounds in the admirable condition we take for granted, Fred has had to cut back in the face of many commitments, and leave your Board. We thank Fred for the myriad ways he has made the Society better.

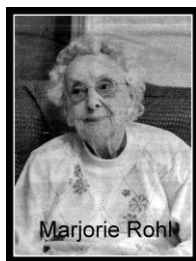
Celebrating Centenarians

In our April 2014 *Grannytown Gazette*, we profiled one of our members, longtime Alden resident **Josephine Michaud**, in recognition of her 99th birthday, celebrated in late 2013. We are happy to report that Jo has recently **celebrated her 100th birthday**. Jo was a member of the Alden Methodist Church volunteered,



at the Erie County Home and Infirmary, served as a 4H leader, and through the years, provided childcare to many Alden children in her home on Emerson Street. Jo and her husband, the late Stanley, are parents to daughters Claudia, the late Susan, and June.

Former Alden teacher **Marjorie Rohl** **celebrated her 100th birthday** in December 2014. Marjorie taught home economics in the Alden district for many years. We believe she began her career in Alden in the mid- 1950's, when she was hired by former School Superintendent Wilson R. Conrad.



Marjorie's four children: Beverly, Richard, Carol, and Kay, all graduated from Alden. They have provided Marjorie with 8 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Marjorie currently resides in Oklahoma where she enjoys doing word search puzzles, reading, and watching TV.

Anyone wishing to send a card to Josephine or Marjorie may do so by mailing the card to Alden Historical Society, 13213 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004. Both have been members of the Alden Historical Society for a very long time.
Happy Birthday, Josephine and Marjorie and wishing you both many more.

With Deepest Sympathy



Ralph Stoos

The Alden Historical Society extends heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Ralph Stoos, who passed away on October 30, 2014. Husband of the late Irene Stoos; father of Kedrick (Margaret) and Ralph (Amy) Stoos. As an active member of the Historical Society, Ralph was also a trustee and life member. He is a WW II veteran and was wounded at the Battle of the Bulge. Photography was his life's hobby.



Dr. Eugene Marks

The Alden Historical Society extends heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Dr. Eugene Marks, who passed away on November 4, 2014. He was a general practitioner in Alden for many years. Dr. Marks is survived by his wife Edna Marks; children: Dr. James Marks (Judi), Catherine (Lou) Scott, Joanne (Jerry) Shpunt, Judy(Bill) Freitag, Elizabeth (Richard) Cortright, and Edward (Tammy) Marks. Dr. Marks was a life member of the Historical Society and is a Korean War veteran.

WELCOME MEMBERS

NEW BUSINESS MEMBER:

CJR Machine, Inc

LIFE MEMBER DONATIONS IN LIEU OF DUES:

Craig Kubik

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:

New members are always welcome. Your support will ensure that the Alden Historical Society will continue to grow and prosper for years to come. Please make check payable as noted below.

Please note that the membership year runs from April 1 through March 31, with annual payment due by April 1.

Thank you for your support.

DUES

Single\$12.00	Name.....
Couple\$20.00	Address
Family.....\$25.00
Business.....\$50.00	Phone.....Email.....

A check payable to: **ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY** may be mailed to:

Debbie Crist, Membership Secretary
Alden Historical Society
13213 Broadway
Alden, NY 14004

DONATIONS AND MEMORIALS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

Please remember the Alden Historical Society in your estate plans.

A bequest in your memory or in memory of someone you love can help preserve the heritage of our community.

aldenhistsoc@gmail.com

Phone 937 3700

General Fund and Other Donors

Recently the Alden Historical Society has received generous donations from the following:

Historical Marker Fund

Laura Airey, in memory
of husband, Robert C.

Pauline Bress

Anonymous

General Fund

Sylvia Stevens-Bucek

Harriet Eggleston

Laura Loehr

General Fund

Dennis Nichols

Rhonda Wieder

Anne Newton

General Fund

George McGaughey, in memory
of brother, James R.

Sue & Richard Davis D.D.S.

Please be advised that donations to the Alden Historical Society are not tax deductible since it is not a 501(c)(3) organization.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING

The ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S many exhibits are located in the village at the Alden Historical Society Building, 13213 Broadway, across from Alden Sate Bank. The mission of the historical society is to preserve, promote and present the history of Alden and its people.

HOURS:

The Alden Historical Society Building is open to the public from 1 PM to 3 PM the first and third Sunday of each month except during January and February. Tours for individuals and groups may be arranged by calling 937-3700, 937-6400.

MEETINGS:

Program meetings are generally held at the Alden Community Center on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. Notices will be published in the Alden Advertiser in advance of the program. Open to the public, these programs are both informative and interesting. Many times a guest speaker is present. You are very welcome to come, share your memories and experiences about the evening's program, and enjoy an informal social complete with homemade refreshments. In the event of inclement weather, we will follow the lead of the Alden school system, postponing when after school programs are closed.

Trustee meetings are normally held at the Alden Historical Building at 7:00 pm. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month in February, April, June, August, October and December (even months). Trustee meetings are open to the membership.

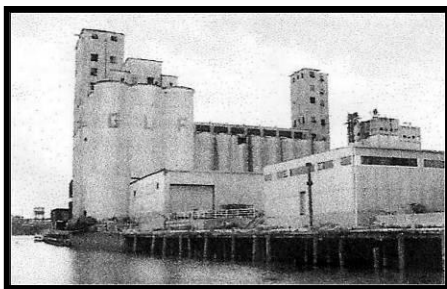
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>2015 Officers</i></u></p> <p>President – Roberta Vincent Vice President – Chris Gust Secretary - Diane Casell Treasurer- Clarke Burke</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Ex-Officio Appointments</i></u></p> <p>Curator - vacant Archivist - Karen Muchow</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Committee Chairs and members</i></u></p> <p>Membership - Debbie Crist Collections - Larry Kocher</p>	<p>Publicity/Newsletter - Elli DeFilippo, Chris Gust, Carl Matthies, and Clarke Burke Program/Refreshments – Conrad & Carol Borucki and Roberta Vincent Building and Ground - Larry Kocher and Chris Gust Fundraising - Gil Dussault Nominating - Elli DeFilippo and Jane Burke Audit - Chris Gust, Clarke Burke and Larry Kocher Budget - Clarke Burke, Larry Kocher and Chris Gust Historical Marker/Signs - Gil Dussault Erie County Fair - Conrad Borucki</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Town Historian</i></u> – Karen Muchow</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>2015 Trustees</i></u></p> <p>Conrad Borucki Clarke Burke Diane Casell Debbie Crist Elli DeFilippo Gil Dussault Chris Gust Larry Kocher Carl Matthies Jennifer Strong Roberta Vincent</p>
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ALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY DATES TO REMEMBER WINTER 2015

PROGRAM MEETINGS Alden Community Center 7 PM	TRUSTEE MEETINGS Alden Historical Society Building at 7 PM
JAN. 8.....Buffalo's Grain Elevators & Waterfront	
FEB. 12.....The Life of a Cameraman	FEB. 12.....<u>Members Invited</u>
MARCH 12....100 World Changing Events	

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

January 8, 2015.....CELEBRATE BUFFALO'S GRAIN ELEVATORS



They stand as concrete monuments to Buffalo's days as the grain capital of the world. In January, June Justice Crawford will offer us an audio-visual presentation of these magnificent structures and the people who worked with them. She will discuss with us the many ideas and plans for the future of both the towers and the surrounding waterfront area.

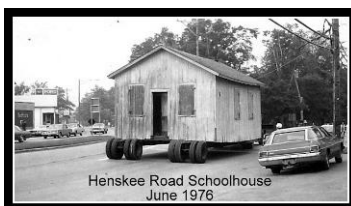
February 12, 2015.....MY WORLD - AS SEEN THROUGH THE LENS OF CAMERAMAN



For over 35 years, television cameraman Tom French has been involved in the filming of a wide variety of subject matters and events. In addition to his twelve year stint as cameraman for a noted soap opera, Mr. French has "shot" a vast array of political and sporting events. Join us, as Mr. French reminisces about his many unique experiences, and entertains us with his often humorous anecdotes and perspectives on the goings on "behind the scenes," and "behind the camera's eye."

March 12, 2015 HERE TODAY – THERE TOMORROW

In today's mobile society, it's not uncommon for individuals, families, and businesses to move to a new location. It's not too often, however, that the location (the building itself) does the moving. Join us in March as Alden Historical Society Archivist and Alden Historian



Karen Muchow tells us about the large number of structures within both Village and Town that have been picked up and moved to an entirely new location. The program promises to be a moving experience.

Henskee Road Schoolhouse moved from Henskee Rd. to Alden Town Park, shown at left.

Conrad and Carol Borucki Program Committee

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www.facebook.com/AldenHistoricalSociety

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